Title	Rules for Coordination of Complex Civil Cases (amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 1501–1529 and 1540–1550 and adopt new rules 1530–1532)
Summary	The proposed amendments to the coordination rules would require a coordination motion judge to set the hearing on a petition for coordination within 30 days of the judge's assignment, permit a coordination motion judge to continue a hearing on a petition to coordinate no more than 30 days in order to hear a subsequently filed petition at the same time, simplify the procedures for stays, and allow a party to move to terminate a stay 30 days after it is issued. Proposed new rules would require parties to give notice of potential add-on cases, allow potential add-on cases to be considered at a hearing on a petition to coordinate, and require a coordination motion judge who grants coordination to recommend a site for coordination proceedings and provide a list of factors for the judge to consider in making the recommendation.
Source	Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
Staff	Susan R. Goins, 415-865-7990, susan.goins@jud.ca.gov
Discussion	Rules 1501–1550 were adopted in 1974 to set out procedures for coordinating in one court complex civil actions sharing a common question of law or fact pending in different courts. Most of the rules have remained unchanged since their adoption. The proposed amendments are intended to improve the fair and efficient handling of coordination petitions and of cases appropriate for coordination. The rules have been amended to achieve this goal and, as part of a rules reorganization project, they have been renumbered and reorganized and their language has been updated and clarified.
	The most significant changes are discussed below.
	 Proposed amended rule 1527 requires the coordination motion judge to set a hearing date on a petition to coordinate within 30 days of the judge's assignment and permits a continuance of no more than 30 days in order to hear a subsequently filed petition at the same time as the initial petition.

- A response in opposition to or support of a petition must be filed at least 10 calendar days before the date set for hearing, under proposed amended rules 1525 and 1526, rather than 45 days after service of notice of the petition.
- Proposed amended rule 1541 requires the coordination trial judge to hold a case management conference within 45 days of assignment. The existing rule states that a preliminary trial conference should be held "preferably" within 30 days of assignment.

Multiple petitions, related cases, and potential add-on cases

- Proposed amended rule 1521(a)(5) requires the petitioner to certify that the petitioner knows of no other actions sharing a common question of law or fact.
- Proposed amended rule 1521(a) (3) requires a plaintiff-petitioner's attorney to state *whether* the attorney has served all defendants with the summons and complaint. This highlights the issue of service for the coordination motion judge to consider, but does not prohibit a plaintiff from filing a petition if not all defendants in all included actions have been served.
- Currently, there is no rule that explicitly allows a party that supports coordination but does not support the site requested by the petitioner to suggest an alternative site and give reasons why the alternative should be selected. Because of this, some parties file oppositions even when they do not oppose coordination, or they file separate petitions to coordinate. Proposed amended rule 1526 allows a party to request a different location in a response in support of a coordination petition. Similar to rule 1521 (existing rule 1521), which governs the content of a petition, it requires the party to provide facts relied on in support of a request that a particular site be selected.
- Proposed new rule 1531(a) requires a party to give notice of any potential add-on case in which the party is named or the party's attorney has appeared. If the parties stipulate, the potential add-on case will be deemed an included action for

purposes of the hearing on the petition. (Rule 1531(b).)

• Under proposed new rule 1532, if it appears that included actions in a petition for coordination share a common question of law or fact with cases already ordered coordinated, the Chair of the Judicial Council may assign the petition to the coordination trial judge for the existing coordinated cases to decide the petition as a request to coordinate an add-on case under rule 1544. If the judge grants the petition, the cases will be added on to the existing coordination proceedings. If the judge denies cordination of the included actions as add-on cases, the petition will be assigned to a coordination motion judge to determine whether coordination in a new coordination proceeding is appropriate under rule 1524.

Site of coordination proceedings

 Proposed new rule 1530 authorizes a coordination motion judge to recommend a site for the coordination proceedings (if coordination is granted) and lists factors for the judge to consider in making the recommendation. Though many judges do make such a recommendation there is no rule addressing this.

Stay orders

• The existing rule for stay orders is difficult to understand and some provisions may be unnecessary. For example, it provides that if a stay order is issued without a hearing and there was a written objection, the stay order terminates 30 days after it is filed. (Rule 1514(b).) If a stay order is issued without a hearing and there was no written objection, the stay order terminates 30 days after a party submits a written request for a "hearing to determine whether the stay order shall remain in effect." (Rule (1514(b).)

The proposed amended rule provides that a stay order may be issued with or without a hearing (rule 1514(e)), and allows a party to move to terminate the stay order after 30 days, regardless of whether there was a hearing or written objection to the stay. (Rule 1514(g)). These distinctions in

the current rule seem unnecessary and likely to confuse. Neither the current rule nor the proposed amended rule limit the length of a stay, except for the automatic termination provision in the current rule. (Rule 1514(b), first sentence.) Thus, a stay order could stay the action for 60 days, 90 days, or longer, for example, but under the amended rule, any party could move to terminate the stay after 30 days.

Attachment

1		Chapter 7. Coordination of Complex Actions
2 3		Article 1. General Provisions
4 5	Rule 1501. D	efinitions
6		
7		se rules this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise
8	requires:	
9	(a)(1)	"cation" manns any sivil action or proceeding subject to
10 11	(a) (1)	"action" means any civil action or proceeding subject to coordination or affecting an action that is subject to coordination.
12		coordination of affecting an action that is subject to coordination.
13	(b) (2)	"add-on case" means an action that is proposed for coordination,
14	(c) <u>(=7</u>	under -pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 404.4. of the
15		Code of Civil Procedure, with actions previously ordered
16		coordinated.
17		
18	(c) (3)	"assigned judge" means any judge assigned by the Chairman of the
19		Judicial Council or by a presiding judge authorized by the Chair of
20		the Judicial Council to assign a judge under pursuant to Code of
21		Civil Procedure sections 404 or 404.3, of the Code of Civil
22		Procedure, including a "coordination motion judge" and a
23		"coordination trial judge."
24 25	(4)(4)	"alark" unless otherwise indicated means any person decignated
25 26	(d) (4)	"clerk," unless otherwise indicated, means any person designated by an assigned judge to perform any clerical duties in accordance
27		with these rules under the rules in this chapter.
28		with these rules ander the rules in this enapter.
29	(e) (5)	"coordinated action" means any action that has been ordered
30	(=)	coordinated with one or more other actions pursuant to <u>under</u>
31		chapter 2 <u>3</u> (commencing with Section 404) of title 4 of part 2 of
32		the Code of Civil Procedure and the rules in this chapter pursuant
33		to these rules.
34		
35	(f) (6)	"coordination attorney" means an attorney in the Administrative
36		Office of the Courts appointed by the Chairman of the Judicial
37		Council to perform such administrative functions as may be
38		appropriate under these the rules in this chapter, including but not
39		limited to the functions described in rules 3.524 1524 and <u>3.550</u> .
40 41		1550. [*]
41	$(\alpha)(7)$	"coordination motion judge" means an assigned judge designated
43	(g) (7)	pursuant to under Code of Civil Procedure section 404 of the Code

1 2		of Civil appropr	Procedure to determine whether coordination is iate.
3			
4	(h)(8)		nation proceeding" means any procedure authorized by
5		chapter	2 <u>3</u> (commencing with section 404) of title 4 of part 2 of
6		the Cod	e of Civil Procedure and by these the rules in this chapter.
7			
8	(i) (9)	" <u>c</u> oordi	nation trial judge" means an assigned judge designated
9		pursuan	t to under Code of Civil Procedure section 404.3 of the
10		Code of	Civil Procedure to hear and determine coordinated actions.
11			
12	(j) (10)	"expens	ses" means all necessary costs that are reimbursable under
13		Code of	Civil Procedure section 404.8 of the Code of Civil
14		Procedu	are including the compensation of the assigned judge and
15		other ne	ecessary judicial officers and employees, the costs of any
16		necessa	ry travel and subsistence determined pursuant to <u>under</u>
17		rules of	the State Board of Control, and all necessarily incurred
18		costs of	facilities, supplies, materials, and telephone and mailing
19		expense	es.
20		_	
21	(k) (11)	"include	ed action" means any action or proceeding included in a
22		petition	for coordination;
23			
24	(<i>l</i>) (12)	"liaison	counsel" means an attorney of record for a party to an
25		included	d action or a coordinated action who has been appointed by
26		an assig	ned judge to serve as representative of all parties on a side
27		with the	e following powers and duties, as appropriate:
28			
29		(1)(A)	to receive on behalf of and promptly distribute to the
30			parties for whom he or she acts, all notices and other
31			documents from the court;
32			
33		(2)(B)	to act as spokes manperson for the side which that he or
34			she represents at all proceedings set on notice before trial,
35			subject to the right of each party to present individual or
36			divergent positions; and
37			
38		(3) (C)	to call meetings of counsel for the purpose of proposing
39			joint action.
40			
41	(m) (13)	" <u>p</u> arty"	includes all parties to all included actions or coordinated
42		actions,	and the word "party," "petitioner," or any other
43			tion of a party includes such that party's attorney of record.

1		When a notice or other paper is required to be given or served on a
2		party, such the notice or paper shall must be given to or served on
3		his the party's attorney of record, if any.
4		
5	(n) (14)	"petition for coordination" means any petition, motion, application,
6		or request for coordination of actions submitted to the Chairman of
7		the Judicial Council or to a coordination trial judge pursuant to
8		<u>under</u> rule <u>1544.</u> <u>3.544.</u> [*]
9		
10	(o) (15)	"remand" means to remove return a coordinated action or a
11		severable claim or issue in that a coordinated action from a
12		coordination proceeding and to return that action or claim or issue
13		to the court in which the action was pending at the time the
14		coordination of that action was ordered. If a remanded action or
15		claim had been transferred by the coordination trial judge under
16		rule 1543 3.543 [*] from the court in which such action the
17		remanded action or claim was pending, the remand shall must
18		include the retransfer of the that action or claim to that court.
19		
20	(p) (16)	"serve and file" means that a paper filed in a court is to must be
21	\1 / <u></u>	accompanied by proof of prior service in a manner permitted by
22		law of a copy of the paper on each party required to be served
22 23		under these the rules in this chapter.
24		<u> </u>
24 25	(q) (17)	"serve and submit" means that a paper to be submitted to an
26	\ 1/ 	assigned judge pursuant to these under the rules in this chapter is to
27		must be transmitted submitted to that judge at a designated court
28		address. Every paper so submitted must be accompanied by proof
29		of prior service on each party required to be served under these the
30		rules <u>in this chapter</u> . If there is no assigned judge, <u>or if the paper is</u>
31		a type included in rule 3.511(a), such the paper shall must be
32		transmitted submitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council.
33		
34	(r) (18)	"side" means all parties to an included or coordinated action who
35	(-) <u>\(- \)</u>	have a common or substantially similar interest in the issues, as
36		determined by the assigned judge for the purpose of appointing any
37		liaison counsel, of allotting peremptory challenges in jury
38		selection, or for any other appropriate purpose. Except as defined
39		in rule 3.515, a side may include less than all plaintiffs or all
40		defendants.
41		<u>wordinging.</u>
42	(e) (19)	"transfer" means to remove a coordinated action or severable claim
43	(5) <u>(17)</u>	in that action from the court in which it is pending to any other

1			court pursuant to under rule 1543, 3.543, [*] without removing
2			such the action or claim from the coordination proceeding. The
3			term "Transfer" includes "retransfer."
4	ъ і	. 1502	
5	Kul	e 1502.	Complex case—definition
6 7	The	agust n	nust consider rule 2 400 et sea [*IIin determining whether e case is or
8			nust consider rule 3.400 et seq. [*] In determining whether a case is or
9			nplex <u>case</u> within the meaning of Code of Civil Procedure sections 403 ne court shall consider rule 1800 et seq. of the California Rules of
10	Cou	rt.	
11			
12		(a)	"Shall" is mandatory, and "may" is permissive.
13			
14		(b)	The past, present and future tenses shall each include the others.
15			
16		(c)	The singular and plural shall each include the other.
17			
18		(d)	Rule headings do not in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or
19			intent of the provisions of these rules.
20			
21		(e)	All section references in these rules are to the Code of Civil Procedure
22			unless otherwise specified.
23			
24			note: This rule is unnecessary because its subject matter is already
25	cove	ered by	rules 2.4 and 3.4.)
26	ъ.	4.500	
27	Kul	e 1503.	Requests for extensions of time or to shorten time
28	(a)	A saign	ad judga may grant request
29 30	<u>(a)</u>	Assign	ed judge may grant request
31		Thomas	ssigned judge, on terms that are just, may shorten or extend Tthe time
32			which any act is permitted or required to be done by a party may be
33			ned or extended by the assigned judge upon such terms as may be just.
34			s otherwise ordered, any motion or application for an extension of time
35			
		_	form an act required by these rules shall <u>must</u> be served and submitted,
36 37		iii acc	ordance with rule 1501(q). 3.501(17). [*]
38	(b)	Stinn	lation requires consent of assigned judge
	<u>(b)</u>	Supu	lation requires consent of assigned judge
39 40		No A	stipulation for an extension of time for the filing and service of
40			stipulation for an extension of time for the filing and service of
41			nents required by these the rules shall be allowed in this chapter unless need to by requires approval of the assigned judge. If there is no
+4		COHSC	nica to by <u>requires approvar or</u> the assigned judge. In there is no

assigned judge, an application for an extension of time shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council in accordance with rule 1511.

(c) Extension does not extend time for bringing action to trial

Nothing in this rule is intended to extend the time within which a party must bring an action to trial under Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310.

Rule 1504. General law applicable

(a) General law applicable

Except as otherwise provided in these the rules in this chapter, all provisions of law applicable to civil actions generally apply regardless of nomenclature to an action included in a coordination proceeding if they would otherwise apply to such the action without reference to this rule.

(b) Rules prevail over conflicting general provisions of law

To the extent that these the rules in this chapter conflict with such provisions of law applicable to civil actions generally, the rules in this chapter shall prevail, as provided by under Code of Civil Procedure section 404.7-of the Code of Civil Procedure.

(b)(c) Manner of proceedings may be prescribed by assigned judge

If the manner of proceeding is not prescribed by chapter 2 3 (commencing with section 404) of title 4 of part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure or by these the rules in this chapter, or if the prescribed manner of proceeding cannot, with reasonable diligence, be followed in a particular coordination proceeding, the assigned judge may prescribe any suitable manner of proceeding that appears most conformable to such consistent with those statutes and rules.

(e)(d) Specification of applicable local rules

 At the beginning of a coordination proceeding, the assigned judge shall must specify, subject to rule 981.1, any local court rules to be followed in that proceeding, and thereafter all parties shall must comply with such those rules. Except as otherwise provided in these the rules in this chapter or directed by the assigned judge, the local rules of the court designated in the order appointing the assigned judge shall apply in all respects if they would otherwise apply without reference to these the rules in this chapter.

Rule 1505. Appellate review

(a) Coordination order to specify reviewing court

If the actions to be coordinated are within the jurisdiction of more than one reviewing court, an order granting a petition for coordination shall <u>must</u> specify, in accordance with <u>Code of Civil Procedure</u> section 404.2, of the <u>Code of Civil Procedure</u>, the court in which any petition for a writ relating to any subsequent order in that coordination proceeding shall <u>must</u> be filed.

(b) Court for review of order granting or denying coordination

A petition for a writ relating to an order granting or denying coordination may be filed, subject to the provisions of rule 20 47.1, [*] in any reviewing court having jurisdiction under the rules applicable to civil actions generally.

Rule 1506. Liaison counsel

(a) Selection and appointment

An assigned judge may at any time request the parties on each side of the included or coordinated actions to select one or more of the attorneys of record on that side to be appointed as liaison counsel, and may appoint such liaison counsel if the parties are unable to agree.

(b) Duration of appointment by coordination motion judge

Unless otherwise stipulated to or directed by an assigned judge, the appointment of a liaison counsel by a coordination motion judge shall terminates upon the final determination of the issue whether coordination is appropriate. For good cause shown, the coordination motion judge, on the court's own motion or on the motion of any party, may remove such previously appointed counsel as liaison counsel.

(b)(c) Service on party that has requested special notice

 Except as otherwise directed by the assigned judge, any party who has made a written request for special notice shall be served with a copy of any document thereafter served on the party's liaison counsel.

Article 2. Procedures for Coordination of Complex Actions

Rule 1510. Service of papers

(a) **Proof of service**

 Except as otherwise provided in these the rules in this chapter, all papers filed or submitted under these rules shall must be accompanied by proof of prior service on all other parties to the coordination proceeding, including all parties appearing in all included actions and coordinated actions. Service and proof of such service shall must be made as provided for in civil actions generally.

(b) Service on liaison counsel

Except as provided in rule 1506(b), aAny party for whom which liaison counsel has been designated may be served by serving the liaison counsel.

(c) Effect of failure to serve

Failure to serve any defendant with a copy of the summons and of the complaint, or failure to serve any party with any other paper or order as required by these the rules in this chapter, shall will not preclude the coordination of the actions, but such the unserved defendant or party may assert such the failure to serve-him as a basis for appropriate relief.

Rule <u>1511.</u> Papers to be submitted to Chairman of the Judicial Council

A copy of every petition, notice of submission of petition for coordination, notice of opposition, application for stay order, stay order, notice of hearing on a petition, order granting or denying coordination, order of remand, order of transfer, and of every order terminating a coordination proceeding in whole or in part shall be transmitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council. Any document required to be submitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council shall be submitted in duplicate unless such document is accompanied by proof of submission of the original or a copy thereof to the assigned judge. All papers submitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council under these rules shall be transmitted to the San Francisco office of the Judicial Council.

(a) Types of papers

A copy of the following papers must be submitted to the Chair of the Judicial Council at the Judicial Council's San Francisco office:

2	<u>(1)</u>	Petition for coordination, including a petition for coordination of add-
3		on cases,
4	<u>(2)</u>	Notice of submission of petition for coordination, along with the
5		caption page of the original action,
6	<u>(3)</u>	Order assigning coordination motion judge, if made by a presiding
7		judge;
8	<u>(4)</u>	Order assigning coordination trial judge, if made by a presiding judge;
9	<u>(5)</u>	Notice of opposition
10	<u>(6)</u>	Response in opposition to or in support of a petition for coordination,
11	<u>(7)</u>	Motion for stay order,
12	<u>(8)</u>	Notice of hearing on petition,
13	<u>(9)</u>	Order granting or denying coordination, including coordination of
14		add-on cases,
15	<u>(10)</u>	Order of remand,
16	<u>(11)</u>	Order of transfer,
17	<u>(12)</u>	Order terminating a coordination proceeding in whole or in part,
18	<u>(13)</u>	Order dismissing an included or coordinated action,
19	<u>(14)</u>	Notice of appeal,
20	<u>(15)</u>	Notice of disposition of appeal.
21		
22	<u>(b)</u>	Obligation of party
23		
24	_	apers listed in subdivision (a) are to be submitted by the party that filed
25		omitted and served the papers or that was directed to give notice of entry
26	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	order. Notice of submission must be filed with the court as part of the
27	proof	of service.
28	D I 1510	
29		Service of Memorandums Points and authorities and affidavits
30	decla	<u>rations</u>
31	Unlage oth	erwise provided in these the rules in this chapter or directed by the
32 33		<u> </u>
33		dge, all memorandaums of points and authorities and affidavits s in support of or opposition to any petition, motion or application shall
3 4 35		rved and submitted not later than at least five ten calendar days prior to
35 36		hearing up on the matter at issue.
30 37	octore any	nearing apon the matter at issue.
3 <i>1</i> 38	Rule 1513	Evidence presented at court hearings

All factual matters to be heard on any petition for coordination, or on any other petition, motion or application under these the rules in this chapter, shall must be initially presented and heard upon affidavits declarations, answers to interrogatories or requests for admissions, depositions, or matters judicially

noticed. Oral testimony shall will not be permitted at a hearing except as the assigned judge may permit to resolve factual issues shown by the affidavits, declarations, responses to discovery, or matters judicially noticed to be in dispute. Except as otherwise permitted by the assigned judge for good cause shown, oOnly the parties who that have submitted a petition, or motion or application, or a written response or opposition to such a petition, or motion or application, shall will be permitted to appear at the hearing thereon, except the assigned judge may permit other parties to appear, on a showing of good cause.

Rule 1514. Motions and Stay orders for a stay

(a) Motion for stay

An application to an assigned judge Any party may file a motion for an order pursuant to under Code of Civil Procedure section 404.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure staying the proceedings in any action being considered for, or affecting an action being considered for, coordination, or the court may stay the proceedings on its own motion. The motion for a stay may be included with a petition for coordination or may be served and submitted to the Chair of the Judicial Council and the coordination motion judge by any party at any time prior to the determination of such the petition.

(b) Contents of motion

An application motion for a stay order shall must:

(1) <u>list all known pending</u> related cases pending in any California court; and shall

(2) state whether the stay order should extend to any such related case; and

(3) An application for a stay order shall be supported by a memorandum of points and authorities and by affidavits declarations establishing the facts relied upon to show that a stay order is necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of coordination.

(c) Service requirements for certain motions for stay orders

If the action to be stayed is not included in the petition for coordination <u>or</u> <u>any response to that petition</u>, <u>copies of</u> the <u>application motion</u> for a stay order and <u>of</u> all supporting documents <u>shall must</u> be served <u>upon on</u> each party to the action to be stayed, and any such party may serve and submit opposition to the motion for a stay order.

(d) Opposition to motion for stay order

 Any points and authorities memorandums and affidavits declarations in opposition to an application motion for a stay order shall must be served and submitted within 10 days after the service of such the motion.

(e) Hearing on motion for stay order

and the assigned judge may schedule a hearing to determine whether the stay order shall issue. A stay order may be issued with or without a hearing. A party filing a motion for a stay order or opposition thereto may request a hearing to determine whether the stay order should be granted. A request for hearing should be made at the time the requesting party files the motion or opposition. If the coordination motion judge grants the request for a hearing, the requesting party must provide notice.

(e)(f) Determination of motion for stay order

In ruling upon an application motion for a stay order the assigned judge shall must determine whether the stay will promote the ends of justice, considering the imminence of any trial or other proceeding that might materially affect the status of the action to be stayed, and whether a final judgment in that action would have a res judicata or collateral estoppel effect with regard to any common issue of the included actions.

(b)(g) <u>Issuance of stay order and termination of stay</u>

Any stay order issued without a hearing over the prior written objection of a party to the action stayed by such order shall terminate on the 30th day following filing of the stay order. A stay order issued in the absence of any timely written objection and without a hearing shall terminate on the 30th day following the submission by any party to the action stayed by such order of a written request for a hearing to determine whether the stay order shall remain in effect. Notice of a hearing to determine whether a stay order should be granted or terminated shall be prepared and served at the direction of the coordination motion judge. For good cause shown at such hearing, the judge may order the stay granted or extended pending determination of the petition for coordination. If a stay order is issued, the party that requested the stay must serve and file a copy of the order in each included action that is stayed. Thirty days or more following issuance of the stay order, any party may move to terminate the stay.

(e)(h) Effect of stay order

 Unless otherwise specified in the stay order, a stay order suspends all proceedings in the action to which it applies. A stay order may be limited by its terms to specified proceedings, orders, motions, or other phases of the action to which the stay order applies.

(d)(i) Effect of absence of stay order

 In the absence of a stay order, a court receiving an order assigning a coordination motion judge may continue to exercise jurisdiction over the included action for purposes of all pretrial and discovery proceedings, but no trial shall may be commenced and no judgment shall may be entered in that action unless trial of the action had commenced prior to before the assignment of the coordination motion judge.

(f)(j) Effect of stay order on dismissal for lack of prosecution

The time during which any stay of proceedings is in effect pursuant to these under the rules in this chapter shall must not be included in determining whether the action stayed should be dismissed for lack of prosecution pursuant to under chapter 1.5 (§ 583.110 et seq.) of title 8 of part 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

Rule <u>1515.</u> Motions pursuant to <u>under Code of Civil Procedure section 170.6</u>

Any A party making a peremptory challenge by motion or affidavit of prejudice regarding an assigned judge shall must be submitted it in writing to the assigned judge within 20 days after service of the order assigning the judge to the coordination proceeding. All plaintiffs or similar parties in the included or coordinated actions shall constitute a side and all defendants or similar parties in such actions shall constitute a side for purposes of applying Code of Civil Procedure section 170.6.

Article 3. Petitions and Proceedings for Coordination of Complex Actions

Rule 1520. Motions filed in the trial court

(a) [General requirements]

 A motion filed in the trial court under this rule shall must set forth specify the matters required by rule 1521(a)3.521(a), [*] and shall must be made in the manner provided by law for motions in civil actions generally.

(b) [Permission to submit a petition for coordination]

(1) Request for permission to submit coordination petition

1 2

If a direct petition is not authorized by Code of Civil Procedure section 404, a party may request permission from the presiding judge of the court in which one of the included actions is pending to submit a petition for coordination to the Chairperson of the Judicial Council. The request shall must be made by noticed motion accompanied by a proposed order, to the presiding judge of a court in which one of the included actions is pending. The proposed order must state that the moving party has permission to submit a petition for coordination to the Chair of the Judicial Council under rules 3.521–3.523.

(2) Order to be prepared

If permission to submit a petition is granted, the moving party shall prepare an order which shall be <u>must</u> served and filed in the action the <u>signed order</u> and submitted it to the Chairperson of the Judicial Council. The order shall grant the moving party permission to submit a petition for coordination to the Chairperson of the Judicial Council in compliance with rules 1521, 1522, and 1523.

(3) Stay permitted pending preparation of petition

To provide sufficient time for a party to submit a petition, the <u>presiding</u> judge may, <u>under rule 1514(e)</u>, stay all related actions pending in that court for a reasonable time not to exceed 30 days.

(c) [Transfer and consolidation]

A motion to transfer and consolidate actions pending in the superior court and in a municipal or justice court of the same county under Code of Civil Procedure section 404 shall be submitted to a superior court in which one of the included actions is pending. The original moving papers shall be filed in the superior court action and copies shall be filed in each included action. The prevailing party shall prepare an order setting forth the disposition of the motion and shall serve and file the order in each included action. If transfer and consolidation are granted, the moving party shall take all necessary steps to effect the transfer of the action. The moving party shall complete the transfer no later than 90 days after the date the order of transfer is filed in the included action. If an included action is not transferred within the 90-day

period, the order of transfer shall expire with respect to that action without prejudice to renewal of the motion to transfer and consolidate for good cause shown.

(Reviser's note: Because of trial court unification, subdivision (c) is obsolete. It should either be eliminated or revised to reflect unification.)

Rule 1521. Petition for coordination

(a) Contents of petition

A request submitted to the Chairman of the Judicial Council for the assignment of a judge to determine whether the coordination of certain actions is appropriate, or a request that a coordination trial judge make such a determination concerning an add-on case, shall must be designated a "Petition for Coordination" and may be made at any time after filing of the complaint. The petition shall must state whether a hearing is requested and shall must be supported by points and authorities a memorandum and affidavits declarations showing:

(1) the name of each petitioner, or, when the petition is submitted by a presiding or sole judge, the name of each real party in interest, and the name and address of <u>its</u> his attorney of record, if any;

(2) the names of the parties to all included actions, and the name and address of each party's attorney of record, if any;

(3) if the party seeking to submit a petition for coordination is a plaintiff, whether the party's attorney has served the summons and complaint on all parties in all included actions in which the attorney has appeared;

(3)(4) for each included action, the complete title and case number of each included action, together with, the date the complaint was filed and the title of the court in which such the action is pending and the number of such action;

(4)(5) the complete title <u>and case number</u> of any other action known to the petitioner to be pending in a court of this state that shares a common question of fact or law with the included actions, and a statement of the reasons for not including <u>such the</u> other action in the petition for coordination <u>or a statement that the petitioner knows of no other</u> actions sharing a common question of fact or law;

(5)(6) the status of each included action, including the status of any pretrial or discovery motions or orders in that action, if known to petitioner;

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(6)(7) the facts relied upon to show that each included action meets the coordination standards specified in <u>Code of Civil Procedure</u> section 404.1 of the Code of Civil Procedure; and

(7)(8) any the facts relied upon in support of a request that a particular site or sites be selected for a hearing upon the petition for coordination.

(b) Submit proof of filing and service

A petition for coordination shall be accompanied by proof of filing of a copy of such petition, and of the notice required by rule 1522 and by proof of prior service of copies of the notice and petition as required by rule 1523. Within five calendar days of submitting the petition for coordination, the petitioner must submit to the Chair of the Judicial Council proof of filing of the notice of submission of petition required by rule 3.522, and proof of service of the notice of submission of petition and of the petition required by rule 3.523.

(c) Copies of pleadings in lieu of proof by declaration

In lieu of proof by affidavit declaration of any fact required by subdivision (a)(2), (3), (6) and (7), a certified or endorsed copy of the respective pleadings may be attached to the petition for coordination, provided that the petitioner shall-specifyies with particularity the portions of the pleadings that are relied upon to show such the fact.

(d) Effect of imminent trial date

The imminence of a trial in any action otherwise appropriate for coordination may be a ground for summary denial of a petition for coordination, in whole or in part.

Rule 3.522. Notice of submission of petition for coordination

(a) Contents of notice of submission

<u>In each included action, the petitioner must file Each petition for coordination shall be accompanied by proof of filing in each included action of a "Notice of Submission of Petition for Coordination" and of a copy of the petition for coordination. Each such notice shall must bear the title of the</u>

court in which the notice is to be filed and the title and number of the each included action that is pending in that court. Each notice and shall must set forth include: the date that the petition for coordination was submitted to the Chair of the Judicial Council; (2) the name and address of the petitioner's attorney of record; (3) the title and case number of the each included action to which the petitioner is a party, and the title of the court in which each action in pending; and (4) the title of the court in which each action in pending; and (5) (4) the notice required by rule 1523(b) the statement that any written opposition to the petition must be submitted and served at least 10 calendar days before the hearing date. (b) Copies of notice The petitioner must submit the A copy of each such notice and proof of filing in each included action shall be attached to the original petition for eoordination to the Chair of the Judicial Council within five calendar days of submitting the petition for coordination. Rule 1523. Service of notice of submission on party **Petitioner to serve notice**

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The petitioner shall must serve a copy of the notice of submission of petition for coordination that was filed in each included action, together with a copy of the petition for coordination, and of the supporting documents, upon each party appearing in such each included action and submit it to the Chair of the Judicial Council within five calendar days of submitting the petition for coordination.

(b) The notice shall advise each party that if he intends to oppose the petition for coordination, he must serve and submit written opposition thereto not later than 45 days after such notice of Submission of Petition for Coordination is served on him. In lieu of serving copies of the petition for coordination and supporting documents on any party, the petitioner may advise such party in the notice of submission of petition for coordination served on such party that, within five days after such

notice, is served on him, he may request, in writing, the petitioner to furnish him

with copies of such petition and supporting documents. The petitioner shall immediately furnish copies of the petition for coordination and supporting documents to each party who makes a timely request, in writing, for such papers.

Rule 1524. Order assigning coordination motion judge

(a) Contents of order

An order by the Chairman of the Judicial Council assigning a coordination motion judge to determine whether coordination is appropriate shall <u>must</u> include the following:

(1) <u>bear</u> the special title and number assigned to the coordination proceeding; and

(2) specify a the court address for submitting all subsequent documents to be considered by the coordination motion judge.

(b) Service of order

<u>The petitioner must serve</u> A copy of such the order described in (a) shall be served upon each party appearing in an included action and sent<u>d</u> it to each court in which an included action is pending with directions to the clerk to file the order in the included action. The order shall specify a court address to which all subsequent documents to be submitted to the coordination motion judge shall thereafter be transmitted.

Rule 1525. Response in opposition to petition for coordination

Any party to an included action that opposes coordination Within 45 days after being served with a copy of a notice of submission of petition for coordination, any party may serve and submit a memorandum points and authorities and affidavits declarations in opposition to the petition. Any response in opposition must be served and filed at least 10 calendar days before the date set for hearing.

Rule 1526. Response in support of petition for coordination

Any party to an included action, that supports coordination within 30 days after he is served with a copy of the notice of submission as required by rule 1523, may serve and submit a written statement in support of the petition. Any response in support must be served and filed at least 10 calendar days before the date set for hearing. If a party that supports coordination does not support the particular site or

sites requested by the petitioner for the hearing on the petition for coordination, that party may request that a different site or sites be selected and include in its response the facts relied on in support thereof.

Rule 1527. Notice of hearing on petition for coordination

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(a) <u>Timing and notice of hearing</u> No action shall be ordered coordinated over the objection of any party, and no petition for coordination shall be denied, unless a hearing has been held on the petition as provided in these rules.

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When tThe coordination motion judge determines that must set a hearing date is required on a petition for coordination, he shall determine within 30 days of the date of the order assigning the coordination motion judge. When a coordination motion judge is assigned to decide a petition for coordination that lists additional included actions sharing a common question of law or fact with included actions in a petition for coordination already pending before the judge, the judge may continue the hearing date on the first petition no more than 30 days in order to hear both petitions at the same time. The petitioner must provide notice of the hearing the time, place and matters or issues to be heard, and a notice thereof shall be served upon each party appearing in an included action. If The coordination motion judge shall determines that whether the petitioner has served appropriate notice on all a partiesy who that should receive be served with notice of the petition for coordination proceeding, and if he finds that any such party has not been so served with notice, he shall the coordination motion judge must order the petitioner to effect promptly service upon such that party. If the coordination motion judge determines that a hearing is not required under subdivision (b), the hearing date must be vacated and notice provided to the parties.

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(b) Circumstances in which hearing required

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A hearing must be held to decide a petition for coordination if a party opposes coordination. A petition for coordination may not be denied unless a hearing has been held.

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(c) Report to the Chair of the Judicial Council

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39 40 If the issue whether petition for coordination is appropriate has not been determined decided within 90 30 days after his assignment the hearing, the coordination motion judge shall must promptly submit to the Chairman of the Judicial Council a written report describing:

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(1) the present status of the petition for coordination proceeding,;

(c) <u>{Authority of Cc</u>oordination motion judge's authority pending assignment of <u>coordination</u> trial judge]

After a petition <u>for coordination</u> is <u>has been</u> granted and before a coordination trial judge is <u>has been</u> assigned, the coordination motion judge may for good cause make any appropriate order as the ends of justice may require, but <u>shall may</u> not commence a trial or enter judgment in any included action. Good cause <u>shall</u> includes a showing of an urgent need for

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judicial action to preserve the rights of a party pending assignment of a 1 2 coordination trial judge. 3 4 (d) {Order denying coordination} 5 6 The authority of a coordination motion judge over an included action 7 terminates Wwhen an order denying a petition for coordination is filed in an the included action and served on the parties to the action., the authority of 8 9 the coordination motion judge over the included action shall terminate. Any 10 A stay that has been ordered by the coordination motion judge shall terminates 10 days after the order denying coordination is filed filing of the 11 12 order denying coordination. 13 14 Rule 1530. Site of coordination proceedings 15 16 (a) Recommendation by coordination motion judge 17 If a petition for coordination is granted, the coordination motion judge must, 18 in the order granting coordination, recommend to the Chair of the Judicial 19 Council a particular superior court for the site of the coordination 20 21 proceedings. 22 23 (b) Factors to consider 24 25 The coordination motion judge may consider any relevant factors in making a recommendation for the site of the coordination proceedings, including the 26 27 following: 28 29 (1) the number of included actions in particular locations; 30 (2) whether the litigation is at an advanced stage in a particular court; 31 32 33 (3) the efficient use of court facilities and judicial resources; 34 35 the locations of witnesses and evidence; (4) 36 37 (5) the convenience of the parties and witnesses; 38 39 (6) the parties' principal places of business; 40 41 (7) the office locations of counsel for the parties; and

(8) the ease of travel to and availability of accommodations in particular 1 2 locations. 3 4 **Rule 1531** Potential add-on case 5 6 (a) Notice 7 8 Any party to an included action in a pending petition for coordination must promptly provide notice of any potential add-on case in which that party is 9 also named or in which that party's attorney has appeared. The party must 10 submit notice to the coordination motion judge and the Chair of the Judicial 11 Council and serve it on each party appearing in the included actions in the 12 13 pending petition and each party appearing in the potential add-on cases. 14 15 (b) Stipulation or order 16 By stipulation of all parties or order of the coordination motion judge, each 17 potential add-on case will be deemed an included action for purposes of the 18 19 hearing on the petition for coordination. 20 21 Petition for coordination when cases already ordered **Rule 1532** 22 coordinated 23 24 (a) Assignment of coordination trial judge 25 26 If it appears that included actions in a petition for coordination share a common question of law or fact with cases already ordered coordinated, the 27 28 Chair of the Judicial Council may assign the petition to the coordination trial judge for the existing coordinated cases to decide the petition as a request to 29 30 coordinate an add-on case under rule 1544. 31 32 (b) Order 33 34 The coordination trial judge's order must specify either that the request to 35 coordinate an add-on case is granted or denied. 36 37 Filing and service (c)

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The petitioner must promptly file the order in each included action, serve on each party appearing in an included action, and submit a copy to the Chair of Judicial Council.

(d) Cases added on and right to preemptory challenge

If the coordination trial judge grants the petition, the included actions will be coordinated as add-on cases and the right to file a peremptory challenge under Code of Civil Procedure section 170.6 is limited by rule 1515.

(e) Assignment of coordination trial judge if cases not added on

If the coordination trial judge denies the petition as a request to coordinate an add-on case under rule 3.544, the Chair of the Judicial Council must assign a cordination motion judge to determine whether coordination is appropriate under rule 1524.

Article 4. Pretrial and Trial Rules for the Coordination of Complex Actions

Rule 1540. Order assigning coordination trial judge

(a) Assignment by Chair of Judicial Council

Upon the granting of When a petition for coordination is granted, the Chairman of the Judicial Council shall must assign a coordination trial judge to hear and determine the coordinated actions as provided by under Code of Civil Procedure section 404.3 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The order assigning a coordination trial judge must designate an address for submission of papers to that judge.

(b) Powers of coordination trial judge

Immediately upon his assignment, the coordination trial judge may exercise all the powers over each coordinated action of a judge of the court in which that action is pending.

(c) Filing and service of copies of assignment order

 The petitioner must file A copy of the assignment order shall be filed in each coordinated action and another copy thereof shall be transmitted to serve it on each party appearing in such each action. The order assigning a coordination trial judge shall designate a single address to which all papers to be submitted to that judge shall be transmitted. Every paper filed in a coordinated action shall must be accompanied by proof of submission of a copy thereof of the paper to the coordination trial judge at the designated address. A copy of the assignment must be included in any subsequent service of process on any defendant in the action.

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Rule <u>1541.</u> <u>Duties of the coordination trial judge</u>

(a) Initial case management conference

The coordination trial judge shall must hold a preliminary trial case management conference, preferably within 45 days after issuance of the assignment order. by the Chairman of the Judicial Council. Counsel and all self-represented persons appearing in propria persona shall must come to attend the conference and be prepared to discuss all matters specified in the order setting the conference. At any time following the assignment of the coordination trial judge, counsel a party may serve and submit a proposed agenda for the conference and a proposed form of order covering such matters of procedure and discovery as may be appropriate. At such the conference, the judge may:

(1) appoint liaison counsel in accordance with under rule 1506 3.506; [*]

(2) establish a timetable for filing motions other than discovery motions;

(3) establish a schedule for discovery;

(4) provide a method and schedule for the submission of preliminary legal questions that might serve to expedite the disposition of the coordinated actions;

(5) in class actions, establish a schedule, if practicable, for the prompt determination of matters pertinent to the class action issue;

 (6) establish a central depository or depositories to receive and maintain for inspection by the parties evidentiary material and specified documents that are not required by these the rules in this chapter to be served upon all parties; and

(7) schedule further pretrial conferences if appropriate.

(b) Management of proceedings by coordination trial judge

 The coordination trial judge shall <u>must</u> assume an active role in managing all steps of the pretrial, discovery, and trial proceedings to expedite the just determination of the coordinated actions without delay. He <u>The judge</u> may, for the purpose of coordination and to serve the ends of justice:

- (1) order any coordinated action transferred to another court pursuant to under rule 1543; 3.543; [*]
- (2) schedule and conduct hearings, conferences, and a trial or trials at any site within this state that he the judge deems appropriate with due consideration to the convenience of parties, witnesses, and counsel; the relative development of the actions and the work product of counsel; the efficient utilization of judicial facilities and manpower resources; and the calendar of the courts; and
- (3) order any issue or defense to be tried separately and prior to the trial of the remaining issues when it appears that the disposition of any of the coordinated actions might thereby be expedited.

Rule 1542. Remand of action or claim

The coordination trial judge, upon the stipulation of all parties to a coordination proceeding or upon the basis of evidence received at a hearing ordered on his own motion or on the motion of any party to any coordinated action, may at any time remand a coordinated action or any severable claim or issue in that action to the court in which the action was pending at the time the coordination of that action was ordered. Remand may be made on the stipulation of all parties or on the basis of evidence received at a hearing on the court's own motion or on the motion of any party to any coordinated action. provided that Nno action or severable claim or issue in that action shall may be remanded over the objection of any party unless the evidence demonstrates a material change in the circumstances that are relevant to the criteria for coordination as stated in under Code of Civil Procedure section 404.1. If the order of remand requires that the action be transferred, the provisions of rule 1543(b) 3.543(b) shall be are applicable to the transfer. A remanded action is no longer part of the coordination proceedings for purposes of the rules in this chapter.

Rule 1543. Transfer of action or claim

(a) Court may transfer coordinated action

The coordination trial judge, on his motion or on the motion of any party to any coordinated action, may order any coordinated action or severable claim in that action transferred from the court in which it is pending to another court for a specified purpose or for all purposes. Transfer may be made by the court on its own motion or on the motion of any party to any coordinated action.

(b) Hearing on motion to transfer

No action or claim shall be transferred over the objection of any party unless

If a party objects to transfer, the court must hold a hearing has been held

upon on at least 10 days' written notice served upon all parties to that action.

At any hearing to determine whether an action or claim should be transferred,
the court shall must consider the convenience of parties, witnesses, and
counsel; the relative development of the actions and the work product of
counsel; the efficient utilization of judicial facilities and manpower

resources; the calendar of the courts; and any other relevant matter.

(b)(c) Order transferring action

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The order transferring the action or claim shall <u>must</u> designate the court to which the action is transferred and shall <u>must</u> direct that a copy of the order of transfer shall be filed in each coordinated action. <u>The order must indicate</u> whether the action remains part of the coordination proceedings for purposes of the rules in this chapter.

(d) Duties of transferor and transferee courts

(1) Duty of transferor court

The clerk of the court in which the action was pending shall <u>must</u> immediately prepare and transmit to the court to which the action is transferred a certified copy of the order of transfer and of the pleadings and proceedings in that the transferred action and shall <u>must</u> serve a copy of the order of transfer upon each party appearing in that action.

(2) Duty of transferee court

The court to which the action is transferred shall <u>must</u> file the action as if the action had been commenced in that court. No fees shall <u>may</u> be required for such transfer by either court.

(3) Transmission of papers

If it is necessary to have any of the original pleadings or other papers in the transferred action before the coordination trial judge, the clerk of the court from which the action was transferred shall must, upon written request of a party to that action or of the coordination trial judge, transmit such papers or pleadings to the court to which the

action is transferred, a <u>and must retain a certified copy thereof being retained.</u>

(e) Transferee court to exercise jurisdiction

Upon On receipt of an a transfer order, of transfer, the court to which the action is transferred may exercise jurisdiction over the action in accordance with the orders and directions of the coordination trial judge, and no other court shall may exercise jurisdiction over that action except as provided in this rule.

Rule 3.544.1544. Add-on cases

(a) Request to coordinate add-on case

A request to coordinate an add-on case shall must conform to comply with the requirements of rules 1520 3.5201 through 1523 3.523 [*] except that such the request shall must be submitted to the coordination trial judge pursuant to under section 404.4 of the Code of Civil Procedure, with proof of mailing of one copy thereof to the Chairman of the Judicial Council and with proof of service as required by rule 1510 3.510. [*]

(b) Opposition to request to coordinate an add-on case

Within 10 days after such the service of a request, any party may serve and submit a notice of opposition to such the request. Thereafter, within 15 days after submitting his a notice of opposition, the party shall must serve and submit his points and authorities a memorandum and affidavits declarations in opposition to the request. Failure to serve and submit such points and authorities a memorandum and affidavits declarations in opposition may be a ground for granting the request to coordinate an add-on case.

(c) Hearing on request to coordinate an add-on case

The coordination trial judge may order a hearing to be held on the a request to coordinate an add-on case as provided by under rules 1527 3.527 and 1528 3.528 [*] and may allow the parties to serve and submit additional written materials in support of, or in opposition to, the request. At any such hearing In deciding the request to coordinate, the court shall must consider the relative development of the actions and the work product of counsel, in addition to any other relevant matter. Any An application for an order staying the add-on case shall must be made to the coordination trial judge in the manner provided by under rule 1514. 3.515. [*]

(e)(d) Order on request to coordinate an add-on case

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If no party has filed a notice of opposition within the time required under (b), the coordination judge may enter an order granting or denying the request without a hearing. An order granting or denying a request to coordinate an add-on case shall must be prepared and served as provided by under rule 1529 3.529 [*] and an order granting such request shall, upon filing, automatically stays all further proceedings in the add-on case as provided in under rule 1529 3.529 [*].

Rule <u>1545.</u> <u>Termination of coordinated action</u>

(a) Coordination trial judge may terminate action

The coordination trial judge may terminate any coordinated action by settlement or final dismissal, summary judgment, or judgment, or may transfer such the action so that it may be dismissed or otherwise terminated in the court where the action it was pending when coordination was ordered.

(b) Copies of order dismissing or terminating action and judgment

A certified copy of any the order dismissing or terminating the action and of any judgment shall must be transmitted to:

(1) the clerk of the court in which the action was pending when coordination was ordered, who shall promptly enter any judgment and serve notice of entry of the judgment upon all parties to the action; and on the Chair of the Judicial Council; and

(2) the appropriate clerks for filing in each pending coordinated action.

(c) Judgment in coordinated action

The judgment entered in each coordinated action shall <u>must</u> bear the title and number that would be applicable to that action without regard to the coordination proceeding assigned to the action at the time it was filed.

(d) Proceedings in trial court after judgment

 Until the judgment in a coordinated action becomes final <u>or until a</u> <u>coordinated action is remanded</u>, all further proceedings in that action to be determined by the trial court <u>shall must</u> be determined by the coordination

trial judge; Thereafter, unless otherwise ordered by the coordination trial judge, all such proceedings shall must be conducted in the court where the action was pending when coordination was ordered. The coordination trial judge shall must also specify the court in which any ancillary proceedings shall will be heard and determined. For purposes of this rule, a judgment is final when it is no longer subject to appeal.

Article 5. Administration of Coordinated Complex Actions

Rule 1550. General administration by Administrative Office of the Courts

(a) Coordination attorney

Except as otherwise provided in these the rules in this chapter, all necessary administrative functions under this division chapter shall will be performed at the direction of the Chairman of the Judicial Council by a coordination attorney in the Administrative Office of the Courts.

(b) **Duties of coordination attorney**

The coordination attorney shall must at all times maintain:

(1) for the Chairman of the Judicial Council a list of active and retired judges who are qualified and currently available to conduct coordination proceedings.; and

(2) The coordination attorney shall must also maintain a register of all coordination proceedings and a file for each such proceeding, for public inspection during regular business hours at the San Francisco office of the Judicial Council. a register of all coordination proceedings and a file for each such proceeding for public inspection during regular business hours.

(b)(c) Coordination proceeding title and case number

<u>The coordination attorney must assign each coordination proceeding shall be given</u> a special title and <u>coordination proceeding number</u>. <u>assigned by the coordination attorney, and Thereafter all papers in that proceeding shall must bear such that title and coordination proceeding number.</u>